

New Defense Travel System streamlines travel plans

BY 2ND LT. KELLEY FINCHER

377TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Booking official travel just got four days faster and at least 30 steps easier.

Defense Travel System provides an online travel service with the look and feel of a commercial website like Travelocity or Expedia. Airmen will be able to choose their own flights, book car rentals and submit and receive payment on their travel voucher in just two to three days.

"The goal of DTS is to allow people, assuming their function is not to support travel, to fly jets, drive tanks and spend less time running around working on administrative paperwork," said Col. Alan Tomson, the Fielding Branch Chief for DTS.

DTS gives Airmen more control over their travel plans. They can view and choose between different flights depending arrival times, number of stops or layovers. They can also pick an aisle or window seat, or even reserve a vegetarian meal. In addition, DTS gives supervisors the authority to make changes to travel arrangement before the scheduled flight; preventing problems before they arise.

Units make travel arrangements themselves, reducing needed manpower and the potential for clerical error.

"Before DTS arrived, it took 40 steps and 40 human beings an average of eight days to complete the process," said Tomson.

After completing travel, Airmen can update any changes in their plans on the online voucher. After the approving official authorizes the voucher, DTS electronically sends funds in three or fewer days.

Kirtland AFB was chosen to participate in the second test phase of DTS. A third of the base should be on DTS by the end of June with the rest of the base following in three-four months.

For more information call Ray Barreras at Rodgers Travel Office at 846-9989.



Photo by Todd Berenger

'Outch'

Tech. Sgt. Raymond Wonka, 377th Security Forces Squadron, shows visiting Honorary Commanders a piece of equipment used during training of Military Working Dogs. The Honorary Commanders toured Kirtland AFB in the program that promotes awareness of the base, the Air Force and other branches of the military and builds rapport between the military and civilian communities in the local area.

Spouses encouraged to participate in Community Assessment Survey

JENNIFER SPURGIN

377th Services Squadron

The Community Helping Agencies Team (CHAT) Working Group is sponsoring the 2003 Community Assessment Survey of service members and spouses. The information collected from this survey will be used to assist the Family Support Center, Family Advocacy Program, Health and Wellness Center, Life Skills Centers, Family Member Programs, and Chaplains to improve services designed to meet the needs of service members and their families.

Air Force service members and

their spouses at Air Force bases worldwide will be randomly selected to participate in the study. The survey will be sent to the home address of each spouse chosen to participate. Participation is crucial to the success of the project, and those selected are strongly urged to take part.

"The 2003 Community Assessment Survey is a top priority," stated Ms. Christie Krisinger. "It is the best way for us to listen to Air Force spouses and then provide services to help them meet their needs. It allows them to express their opinions anonymously so participants can respond openly and honestly to issues that af-

fect them every day."

Through the completion of the CA, survey responses can directly influence family services and related support activities at local bases and throughout the Air Force. In fact, results from previous Air Force Community Assessments have impacted the policies and programs that support spouses at every level of the Air Force, to include:

- Create activities to help kids handle their parent's deployments, such as Small Hearts Apart.
- Purchase needed child safety seats
- Increased spouse-to-spouse

support, especially during times when service member is deployed or TDY

- Establish special support for step-families

"The 2003 Community Assessment Survey provides service members and spouses as wonderful opportunity to improve the Air Force Community," said Christie Krisinger. We hope those selected will do everything they can to respond to the survey as quickly as possible."

If you have any questions regarding the 2003 Community Assessment, please contact Ms. Christie Krisinger at 846-0139.

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Kirtland Airman Leadership School graduates Class 03-C

Airman Leadership School Class 03-C graduated Feb. 7. Students volunteered at the Roadrunner Food Bank and made a cash donation to the American Red Cross.

Award recipients
Senior Airman Jonathan L. Wilkins
John L. Levitow Award

Senior Airman Marc J. Benelli
Distinguished Graduate Award Leadership Award

Senior Airman Michael L. Bailey
Distinguished Graduate Award

Senior Airman Amy M. Gray
Academic Achievement Award

Eagle Flight
Michael L. Bailey
Detachment 8, Air Force
Research Laboratories

Marc J. Benelli
58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Rene Brady
898th Munitions Squadron

Daniel K. Bruce
58th Maintenance Squadron

Jorge Davila
377th Security Forces Squadron

Paulene D. Garcia
Air Force Operational
Test and Evaluation Center

Bradley W. Gipson
58th Maintenance Squadron

Kenneth R. Hicks
58th Maintenance Squadron

Justina Meyers
377th Mission Support Squadron

Joey A. Nichols
412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Catherine J. Phillips
58th Maintenance Squadron

Joshua W. Rhodes
58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jesse A. Swanson
58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jason C. Tuttle
377th Security Forces Squadron

Falcon Flight
Robert R. Binney
58th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Shahanna T. Calhoun
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Joey A. Chavez
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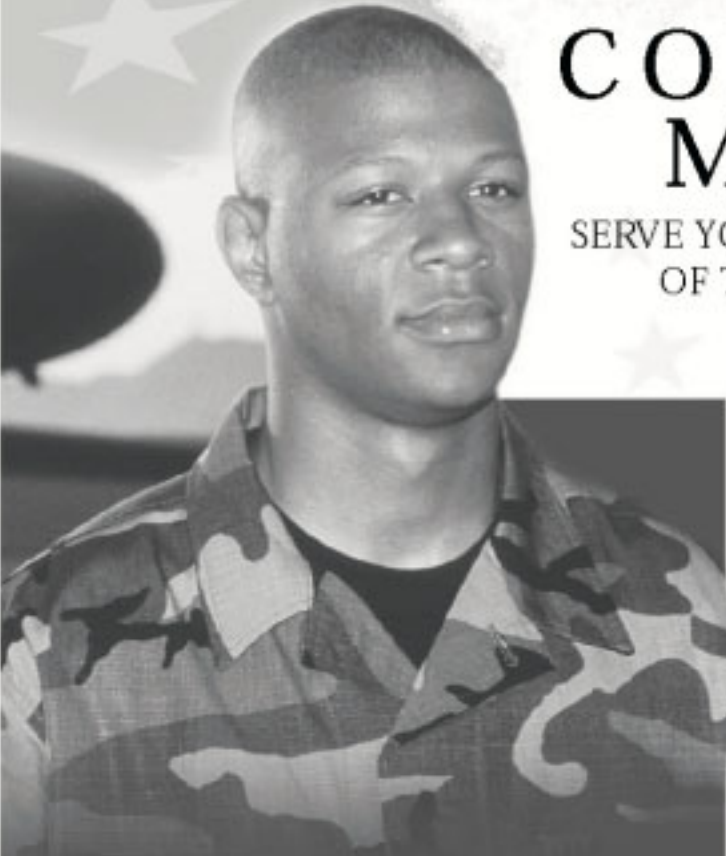
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377th Security Forces Squadron

Jerimiah J. Moody
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David A. Soto
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58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



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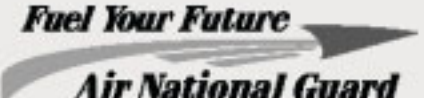
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